



Newsletter



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Meet Marc Pelham, Wine Auction Event Chair

Several years ago, Walmart joined the fight against pediatric cancer by supporting Camp Goodtimes West and the "Toast the Good Times" Wine Auction. As a company, they purchased tables at the fundraiser, they donated financially to Camp, and they provided toys and necessities directly to Camp. One of the key players to all their philanthropy was Market Manager Marc Pelham. He, along with his wife Sherri and son Chandler, attended both the Wine Auction and the Camp Goodtimes Holiday Cruise, and they fell in love with helping children with cancer.

In his company, Marc is passionate about building empowered teams with a focus on strategizing innovative ways to help Walmart succeed. When he agreed to take on the roll as Event Chair of the Wine Auction, he vowed to carry over the same attitude. Since he took the helm, Marc has brought in four new sponsors, he has introduced us to people within the professional sports organizations, and he has inspired the dedicated volunteers to give everything they have for this amazing cause.

Marc holds the Wine Auction and Camp Goodtimes close to his heart because there is nothing more important to him than making a difference in the lives of children that are afflicted with cancer. Everyone deserves to have fun in their lives and camp allows these kids to do just that.

Marc is a Bird Colonel Military brat, married with one son. He enjoys spending time with his son, new challenges, travel and reading.



Marc with his wife Sherri and son Chandler at the 2011 Toast the Good Times Wine Auction.

Buy your Wine Auction tickets today for the chance to bid on these fabulous items!

Alaskan Airlines Tickets

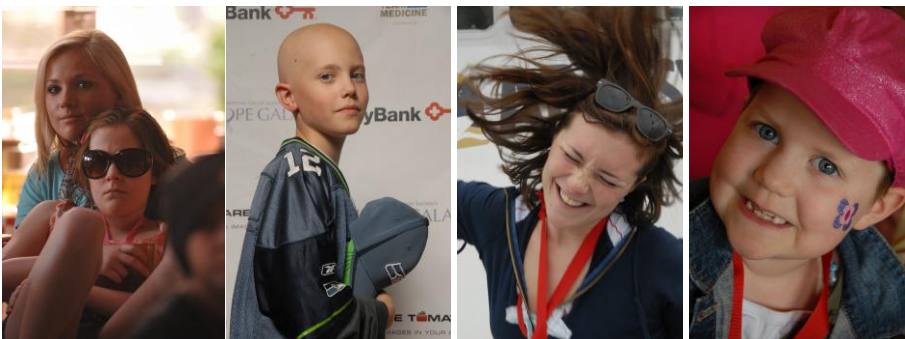
A Costa Rican Getaway

An Easton Cabin Stay

Autographed memorabilia from your favorite Seattle sports teams

And magnums from Dunham Cellars, Doubleback Winery, Terra Blanca, and more!

Tickets can be purchased at www.goodtimeswineauction.org



For more information, please visit <http://goodtimeswineauction.org> or contact Lisa Meindl at 206-674-4162 or lisa.meindl@cancer.org



When 11 year old Julia Gebert was just 3 months old, her mother Pamela noticed that her eyes weren't tracking the same way that her older brother Samuel's had when he was a baby three years earlier. She and her husband Steve took Julia to the doctor and a diagnosis was arrived at very quickly— Julia had a brain tumor. It was called an optic pathway glioma. The tumor was in a dangerous position and it still is all these years later. Three different types of chemotherapy have been used, and the family now has experienced over decade worth of doctors visits. The tumor is stable thankfully, but it cannot be removed and instead simply has to be perpetually watched.

In infancy, this tumor rendered Julia almost completely blind. She can notice shadows, which does assist her a little bit when navigating a familiar room, but she has been permanently disabled by this tumor.

Julia has been attending Camp Goodtimes since she was a little girl at age 7.

Sending her that first year was no easy decision for Julia's parents. Now, four years later, she still looks forward to camp every year, and she is still very little. She travels a long way to get to camp, coming all the way from Alaska where 10% of the Camp Goodtimes West campers live. She makes the trip every year with her older brother Samuel. This year for the first time, her younger brother Andrew (age 7) was also able to attend. Cancer attacks entire families and siblings also benefit greatly from the camp experience. All the kids at camp gain strength through the bonds of their common experience.

Julia is a treasure. In many ways she is like the camp mascot because of her petite stature, pixie-like qualities and enormous heart. Julia just melts people with her smile. In fact, I'm surprised there's so much ice in Alaska with Julia's ability to melt stuff. She sees the world like few others that have ever been to camp and she is genuine to the core. She doesn't judge people on superficial qualities. She doesn't care what you look like, how old you are or how fashionable you are...she just cares about you. She soaks up the compassion of others and then returns it tenfold. She needs people. She needs an arm, a hand, a boost, a perch, an explanation and a shared path. And she appreciates it immensely. When she gets excited, she just bubbles over and her small body just cannot contain the energy, which causes her to start dancing in place while wearing an impossibly huge smile. If you are lucky enough to witness this in person it will make your day.

The last time I had the pleasure of seeing this was at the end of last November. Thanks to the American Cancer Society's Anchorage office, I was offered a plane ticket to be the surprise guest at the Alaska campers' Christmas party. I had never been to Alaska before, and I was thrilled by the idea. For twenty years, the Seattle area kids have had a holiday cruise donated to them by Argosy Cruises, and a few years ago, feeling like they were missing out on some holiday fun, some camp counselors from Alaska, 'Goonie' and 'Wiki', started

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organizing a party for the local kids. Local in Alaska does mean something a bit different than in our neck of the woods. Some families even flew in from Fairbanks to attend. At the party, the kids gathered to watch a video of me sending a greeting from the staff in Seattle. At the end, I burst through a door with camp music blaring. The kids did a huge double take and then completely freaked out. When Julia “saw” me she started doing her dance right away, and I quickly joined her and so did everyone else. After a wonderful visit with all of the kids, Julia and her family came to say goodbye. Sam came up to me and handed me a beautiful framed Native Alaskan themed drawing that he had done. I was so touched to receive such a thoughtful gift on my first trip up north. My next gift was something entirely different. I said goodbye to Julia’s parents and then I bent down and hugged all the Gebert kids at the same time. Julia said something while buried in the middle of that hug that made my whole epic one-day Alaskan adventure worthwhile, “I don’t wanna let go.” She loves a moment and when she’s having fun, she doesn’t want the fun to end. No wonder she loves camp so much.

At Camp Goodtimes, Julia has gained another family and she has no limitations. She rides the tire swing, goes swimming, rock climbing, tandem bike riding and she’s even driven a 120 foot boat. She also loves to sing and thinks nothing of sharing a song with the entire camp. A few years ago, Julia came up to me and asked to sing a song at dinner. I lifted her up so everyone could see her and she started singing “Amazing Grace”. The dining hall that was usually alive with clanking cups and rattling silverware grew instantly silent. Julia sang slowly, softly and deliberately and finished with this verse:

“I once was lost...but now, I’m found...

I was blind...but now I see.”

I only wish that the rest of the world could see as clearly and as beautifully as dear Julia. Bless her sweet heart.

Julia’s mother, Pamela, sent along an additional note of thanks for Camp.

“Caring for a sick child affects the entire family and siblings are also taken for a ride on the scary roller coaster that families of children with serious illnesses experience. Camp Goodtimes teaches kids to not let their disease define them. At camp, they are not the ‘poor little sick child’. They are all too busy having a fun time and living life! These days, Julia plays the violin, tends her own vegetable garden, loves to hike and ski, and goes fishing and camping with her family. For Julia, being blind is not an insurmountable obstacle. She considers it a mere nuisance and does not let it stand in the way of having fun and trying new things. We are enormously thankful for the wonderful and loving people who care for our children while attending camp. Camp Goodtimes experiences give back lost pieces of a childhood. Camp is only one week, but the changes and confidence last a lifetime.” -Pamela Gebert



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Thank you to the very supportive Wine Auction Sponsors!

The “Toast the Good Times” Wine Auction would like send out a special thanks to the organizations that help make the great work the American Cancer Society does possible. Our featured sponsor is a group that has graciously donated the beautiful invitations, programs, and posters for the Wine Auction for the past three years. It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to United Reprographics! Answering our questions is Carrie Curley, proud Camp Goodtimes fan and supporter.

How many years have you been involved with the “Toast the Good Times” Wine Auction?

This is our third year.



In what capacity are you involved?

We take care of all the printed material for the auction.

What drives you to support the Wine Auction and Camp Goodtimes?

We welcome the opportunity to help and be associated with an event that has such a positive and profound effect on the lives of the children and their families.

What is the community mission of United Reprographics?

We strive to support and partner with local companies and organizations who shape our fine city and make Seattle a place we’re proud to call home.

Have you ever attended camp?

To date I’ve not attended but am very much looking forward to being there this year!

If you could tell the kids at Camp Goodtimes one thing, what would it be?

I would be honored to tell the kids that they define courage, passion and a human will that makes this planet a far better place to be. They have amazing lessons to teach us all – lessons that are a true gift to humanity. They shine like the brightest stars and we are blessed to bask in their glow!!

A BIG thanks to our other sponsors as well!



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